

TO RAIN HEAVILY

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C1-C2

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It's bucketing down (UK informal)

It's raining very heavily.

- It started bucketing down the moment we left the house.
- Bring your raincoat—it's bucketing down!

It's chucking it down (British/Slang)

It's raining very hard.

- Don't bother drying your hair—it's chucking it down out there.
- We ran to the car because it was chucking it down.

It's coming down in buckets

To rain very heavily; a vivid expression comparing heavy rain to water being dumped from buckets.

- We were halfway through our hike when it suddenly started coming down in buckets.
- It's coming down in buckets out there—let's wait a bit before leaving.

It's coming down in sheets

The rain is so heavy it looks like sheets of water.

- I couldn't see the road; it was coming down in sheets.
- We waited in the car while it came down in sheets.
- The rain began to come down in sheets.

It's hammering down

It's raining extremely heavily and noisily, often with force—like a hammering sound on surfaces.

- It's hammering down outside; I can hear it beating on the windows.
- We stayed in the car because it was hammering down and visibility was terrible.

It's lashing (rain)

(Primarily Irish and British English)

It's raining very heavily, with strong wind and force—like being whipped or "lashed" by the rain.

- It's absolutely lashing outside—we're not going anywhere without a coat.
- The rain lashed against the windows all night long.

It's pelting down

To rain very hard and rapidly, often with forceful drops that strike surfaces strongly.

- The rain started to pelt down just as we reached the park.
- I had to run for cover when it began pelting down without warning.

It's pissing (it)down (UK offensive)

to rain heavily:

- It's really pissing (it) down here at the moment.
- Let's go, mate. It's going to piss down any minute.
- It's pissing down outside. We should postpone our picnic for another day

It's pouring (with rain)

It's raining very heavily.

- We had to cancel the picnic because it was pouring all afternoon.
- Don't forget your umbrella—it's pouring out there!

It's tipping (it) down / It's teeming down

(UK informal) To rain heavily:

- We won't be able to go to the beach today - it's tipping (it) down.
- It was teeming down so we took shelter under a tree.